
Introduced by Senator Alpert

February 21, 2003

An act to add Article 7 (commencing with Section 49085) to Chapter 6.5 of Part 27 of the Education Code, relating to education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 683, as introduced, Alpert. Pupil Achievement Software Program.

Existing law requires each school district, charter school, and county office of education to administer to each of its pupils in grades 2 to 11, inclusive, certain achievement tests.

This bill would establish the Pupil Achievement Software Incentive Program. The bill would require the State Board of Education to establish software standards for new computer software and modifications to existing computer software regarding the ability to monitor the academic achievement of pupils on the annual statewide achievement tests and other measures of pupil progress over time and the ability to provide data about pupil achievement to principals and teachers that can be used to inform instructional decisions and to approve software in compliance with those standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) The purpose of California's public school accountability
2 system is to improve the learning and academic achievement of all
3 California public school pupils.

4 (b) The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)
5 achievement tests provide a wealth of data about individual pupil
6 achievement in different academic content clusters. Currently, this
7 assessment data does not sufficiently reach most principals and
8 teachers so they can efficiently utilize it in recognizing the level
9 of achievement of each pupil and designing a program that is best
10 tailored to meet the needs and improve the achievement of each
11 pupil.

12 (c) This information can and should be congregated to provide
13 teachers and principals all relevant data regarding individual pupil
14 learning and achievement so they make better decisions and design
15 more individualized learning and instructional programs for each
16 pupil.

17 (d) Hundreds of thousands of public school pupils transfer
18 schools each school year, making it difficult for principals and
19 teachers to obtain and utilize the available data regarding the status
20 and level of academic preparedness of each incoming pupil.

21 (e) The use of data to inform and determine decisionmaking is
22 revolutionizing public and private entities worldwide by putting
23 formerly centralized information at the fingertips of educators so
24 they can make informed decisions with regard to improving
25 academic achievement of their pupils.

26 (f) Many schools remain unsophisticated with respect to
27 utilizing information technology to craft more fitting programs
28 that strive to improve the learning and achievement of their pupils.

29 (g) Easy-to-use software is now available to provide educators
30 increased capacity to appreciate the achievement status of their
31 pupils and to better design programs tailored toward their
32 improvement.

33 (h) Putting easy-to-use software in the hands of principals and
34 teachers would allow them to monitor pupil academic
35 achievement over time and use that data to far more effectively
36 design instructional strategies to improve pupil performance.

37 SEC. 2. Article 7 (commencing with Section 49085) is added
38 to Chapter 6.5 of Part 27 of the Education Code, to read:
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Article 7. The Pupil Achievement Software Program

49085. (a) The Pupil Achievement Software Program is hereby established.

(b) The State Board of Education shall approve computer software and modifications to existing computer software that meet the state standards for use in schools.

(c) The State Board of Education shall establish standards for new computer software and modifications to existing computer software regarding the following:

(1) The ability to monitor the academic achievement of pupils on state assessments and other measures, including performance assessment items, of pupil progress over time.

(2) The ability to provide data about pupil achievement to principals and teachers that can be used to develop instructional strategies tailored to the individual pupil and to improve pupil achievement.

(3) The ability to modify or purchase computer software developed or modified by a school district, county office of education, or charter school for the purpose of monitoring pupil achievement and providing data to principals and teachers to better inform instructional decisions.

(4) The information derived from this program is exclusively for the purpose of enabling principals and teachers to better design programs tailored to the individual level of capacity, achievement, and needs of each pupil and may not be used in the evaluation and assessment of certificated employee performance.

(d) Funding for the purposes of this article is contingent upon an appropriation for that purpose in the annual Budget Act or an appropriation contained in another measure, or both.